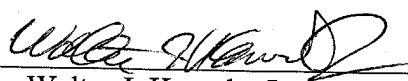


Claims 1, 3-35, 37-39, and 44-46 are stated to be allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, it is believed that this reply addresses each and every ground for rejection or objection and allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner finds that there are outstanding issues which may readily be resolved by telephone interview, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By 
Walter J. Kawula, Jr.

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March 17, 2003
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